

OPINION 1149

BLANUS WAGLER, 1830, AND *AMPHISBAENA CINEREA*
VANDELLI, 1797 (REPTILIA SQUAMATA) CONSERVED

RULING – (1) Under the plenary powers, the specific name *reticulata* C.P. Thunberg, 1787, as published in the binomen *Amphisbaena reticulata*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The generic name *Blanus* Wagler, 1830 (gender: masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Amphisbaena cinerea* Vandelli, 1797, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2098.

(3) The specific name *cinerea* Vandelli, 1797, as published in the binomen *Amphisbaena cinerea* (specific name of type species of *Blanus* Wagler, 1830), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2700.

(4) The specific name *reticulata* C.P. Thunberg, 1787, as published in the binomen *Amphisbaena reticulata*, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1063.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 1468

An application for the suppression of *Amphisbaena reticulata* C.P. Thunberg, 1787, was first received from Dr Carl Gans (then of *University of Buffalo, New York*) on 28 September 1960. It was sent to the printer on 8 December 1960 and was published on 16 June 1961 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 18, pp. 223–224.

The proposal was supported by Professor Hobart M. Smith. No adverse comment was received. Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case had been given to two herpetological serials.

FIRST VOTE OF THE COMMISSION

On 31 May 1962 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (62)22 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 18, p. 223. A note on the Voting Paper stated that the case had

been published before the new (1961) edition of the Code had come into force, and that *Amphisbaena reticulata* C.P. Thunberg, 1787 could be automatically rejected under the provisions of Article 23b without the use of the plenary powers. At the close of the voting period on 31 August 1962 there were 24 affirmative votes and no negative votes. Two late affirmative votes were returned.

For reasons that cannot now be known, no Opinion was issued following this vote.

SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

When I came to examine the file on case Z.N.(S.)1468 in 1974, I thought that it would be unwise to issue an Opinion after so long a delay. I therefore asked Professor Gans to supply the references required, under the revised Articles 23a-b and 79b of 1972, to establish a *prima facie* case for the conservation of *Amphisbaena cinerea* Vandelli, 1797. The application was therefore republished, with the references provided by Professor Gans, on 27 June 1975 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 32, pp. 113-114. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials and two herpetological serials.

At the same time, I sought approval from the Council to publish an Opinion on the case as soon as statutorily possible, without proceeding to a second vote if there were no adverse comments. This suggestion was not approved; in any event, a comment was received from Professor Mroczkowski suggesting that the "relative precedence" procedure should be applied. This, with Professor Gans's rebuttal, was published in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 32, pp. 199-200. No other comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 20 August 1979 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (79)5 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 32: 114. At the close of the voting period on 20 November 1979 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes – nineteen (19), received in the following order: Melville, Vokes, Holthuis, Alvarado, Hahn, Mroczkowski, Willink, Trjapitzin, Tortonese, Sabrosky, Habe, Welch, Brinck, Bernardi, Corliss, Nye, Cogger, Heppell, Bayer

Negative Vote – Dupuis.

Late Affirmative Votes were received from Kraus, Halvorsen and Starobogatov. Ride was on leave of absence. Binder did not vote.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their votes:

Hahn: 'The objection of Dr Mroczkowski is important. But the possibility of finding the type material of *A. reticulata* seems to be so small that I nevertheless agree with hesitation to Dr Gans's proposal.'

Bernardi: "'For' avec réserve. Je préfère, malgré les arguments de Gans, la modification proposée par Mroczkowski."

Dupuis: "Je vote contre la suppression pour les raisons invoquées par Mroczkowski. Mais je vote aussi contre la falsification de dates que supposerait la procédure de 'relative precedence'. En fait, *A. reticulata* est un nomen quasi-nudum qui ne gêne personne."

Nye: "I would, like Dr Mroczkowski, have preferred that *A. cinerea* be given precedence over *A. reticulata*. However, in view of Dr Gans's reply, I support his application."

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Blanus Wagler, 1830, *Nat. System der Amphibien* . . ., München, Stuttgart and Tübingen, p. 197

cinerea, *Amphisbaena*, Vandelli, D., 1797, *Mem. Acad. real Sci. Lisboa*, p. 69

reticulata, *Amphisbaena*, C.P. Thunberg, 1787, *D.D. Mus. Nat. Acad. Upsaliensis*, p. 30.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on V.P.(79)5 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1149.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

2 January 1980